

routing the selected subset of the plurality of audio data streams to decoder modules based on their payload types and a plurality of source identifiers;

rendering the selected subset of data streams;

determining whether one or more of the first and second data streams is associated with an inactive conference participant; and

substituting a third data stream from a third conference participant, for at least the one of the first and second data streams determined to be associated with the inactive conference participant.

Please cancel claim 3.

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully considered the final Office action dated July 8, 2002 and the references of record. In response to the final Office action and pursuant to Rule 114 (a), applicants filed a Request for Continued Examination to continue the prosecution. In keeping with Rule 114 (c), this amendment is made to present the rejected claims in better form for allowance and submit arguments intended to overcome the rejections.

Pursuant to 713.09 MPEP, applicants requested an interview after final, and the interview was conducted on December 3, 2002 between examiner Beatriz Prieto and applicants' representative Margaret Kelton. During the interview, applicants' representative and the examiner discussed items provided in a previously-sent agenda and possible amendments to the claims, including amendments directed to routing based on SSRC (source identifier) and data type. Examiner Prieto indicated that the Bar et al. reference in col, 3, line 25 to col. 4, line 29 teaches such routing. Accordingly, applicants' representative indicated an intention to submit a declaration under 37 CFR 1.131 to swear behind the Bar et al. reference. Applicants have attempted to contact each joint inventor for purposes of executing the declaration and as soon as availability is determined and the declaration(s) is executed, the declaration(s) shall be filed.

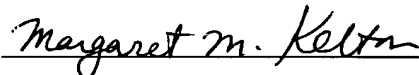
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The amendments to the claims are supported by the originally-filed specification on page 8,
as discussed during the Examiner interview.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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